

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and configured such that said creator terminal provides a content item to said distribution server, and said distribution server stores the provided content item and supplies the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, wherein said distribution server comprises:

charge processing means for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal; and

kickback processing means for kicking a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

2. A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

3. A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said distribution server further comprises:

registration means for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

4. A content distribution system according to claim 3,  
wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for  
examining purpose, and

said registration means registers said creator terminal  
depending on results of examination of the content item for  
examining purpose.

5. A content distribution system according to claim 1,  
wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item  
is a piece of music used on the phone.

6. A content distribution system including a creator  
terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and  
configured such that said creator terminal provides a content  
item to said distribution server, and said distribution server  
stores the provided content item and supplies the stored content  
item to said client terminal in response to a request from said  
client terminal, wherein said distribution server comprises:

tool provision means for providing, in respond to a request  
from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an  
authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the  
content item supplied from said creator terminal to said  
distribution server.

7. A content distribution system according to claim 6,  
wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication  
information for specifying said creator terminal to said  
converted content item.

8. A content distribution system according to claim 6,  
wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution server further comprises copyright  
processing means for executing processing in relation to  
copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal  
to said distribution server.

9. A content distribution system according to claim 6,  
wherein said distribution server further comprises:

registration means for registering said creator terminal  
on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal  
before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

10. A content distribution system according to claim 9,  
wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for  
examining purpose, and

said registration means registers said creator terminal  
depending on results of examination of the content item for  
examining purpose.

11. A content distribution system according to claim 6,  
wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item  
is a piece of music used on the phone.

12. A content distribution method which is applied to a  
content distribution system including a creator terminal, a

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distribution server and a client terminal, and in which a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server is stored in said distribution server, and the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the steps of:

charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal; and

kicking a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

13. A content distribution method according to claim 12, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said method further comprises the step of causing said distribution server to execute processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

14. A content distribution method according to claims 12, further comprising step of causing said distribution server to register said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

15. A content distribution method according to claim 14, wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for

examining purpose, and

said registration of creator terminal is permitted depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

16. A content distribution method according to claim 12, wherein

said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

17. A content distribution method which is applied to a content distribution system including a creator terminal, a distribution server and a client terminal, and in which a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server is stored in said distribution server, and the content item stored in said distribution server is supplied to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the step of:

causing said distribution server to provide, in response to a request transmitted from said creator terminal to said distribution server, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

18. A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

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19. A content distribution method according to claim 17,  
wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said method further comprises the step of causing said  
distribution server to execute processing in relation to  
copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal  
to said distribution server.

20. A content distribution method according to claim 17,  
further comprising step of causing said distribution server to  
register said creator terminal on the basis of information  
transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a  
content item from said creator terminal.

21. A content distribution method according to claim 20,  
wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for  
examining purpose, and

said registration of creator terminal is permitted  
depending on results of examination of the content item for  
examining purpose.

22. A content distribution method according to claim 17,  
wherein

said client terminal is a phone, and said content item  
is a piece of music used on the phone.

23. A distribution server which is capable of  
communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and

which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising:

charge processing means for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and

kickback processing means for kicking a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

24. A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

25. A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein said distribution server further comprising:

registration means for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

26. A distribution server according to claim 25, wherein said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and

said registration means registers said creator terminal depending on results of examination of the content item for

examining purpose.

27. A distribution server according to claim 23, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

28. A distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising:

tool provision means for providing, in response to a request from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

29. A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

30. A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution server further comprises copyright processing means for executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.



31. A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein said distribution server further comprising:

registration means for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

32. A distribution server according to claim 31, wherein said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and

said registration means registers said creator terminal depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

33. A distribution server according to claim 28, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

34. A content distribution method applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the steps of:

charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and

kicking a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

35. A content distribution method according to claim 34,  
wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said method further comprises the step of executing  
processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied  
from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

36. A content distribution method according to claim 34,  
further comprising the step of registering said creator terminal  
on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal  
before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

37. A content distribution method according to claim 36,  
wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for  
examining purpose, and

said registration of creator terminal is permitted  
depending on results of examination of the content item for  
examining purpose.

38. A content distribution method according to claim 34,  
wherein

said client terminal is a phone, and said content item  
is a piece of music used on the phone.

39. A content distribution method applied to a  
distribution server which is capable of communicating with a  
creator terminal and a client terminal and which stores a content  
item supplied from said creator terminal and distributes the

stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, comprising the step of:

providing, in respond to a request transmitted from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

40. A content distribution method according to claim 39, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

41. A content distribution method according to claim 39, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said method further comprises the step of executing processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

42. A content distribution method according to claim 39, further comprising the step of registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

43. A content distribution method according to claim 42, wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and

said registration of creator terminal is permitted

depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

44. A content distribution method according to claim 39, wherein

said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

45. A computer readable recording medium on which is recorded a distribution program applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which realizes processing for storing a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributing the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, the distribution program executing:

processing for charging a fee to a user of said client terminal when the stored content item is supplied to said client terminal; and

processing for kicking a portion of the charged fee back to a registered user of said creator terminal who has provided the content item.

46. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution program further executes processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

47. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said distribution program further executes processing for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

48. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 47, wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and

said registration of creator terminal is permitted depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

49. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said client terminal is a phone, and said content item is a piece of music used on the phone.

50. A computer readable recording medium on which is recorded a distribution program applied to a distribution server which is capable of communicating with a creator terminal and a client terminal and which realizes processing for storing a content item supplied from said creator terminal and distributing the stored content item to said client terminal in response to a request from said client terminal, the distribution program executing:

processing for providing, in respond to a request from said creator terminal, said creator terminal with an authoring

tool for converting into a predetermined format the content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

51. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein said authoring tool further attaches authentication information for specifying said creator terminal to said converted content item.

52. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein

the content item is a piece of music, and

said distribution program further executes processing in relation to copyright of a content item supplied from said creator terminal to said distribution server.

53. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 50, wherein said distribution program further executes processing for registering said creator terminal on the basis of information transmitted from said creator terminal before reception of a content item from said creator terminal.

54. A computer readable recording medium according to claim 53, wherein

said transmitted information is a content item for examining purpose, and

said registration of creator terminal is permitted depending on results of examination of the content item for examining purpose.

